

The future of family doctor (GP) services in Manningham

This letter is about 3 doctors' surgeries in the Manningham area:



Picton at Whetley Medical Centre



Picton at Westbourne Green Community Health Centre
(which used to be The Ridge)



Local Care Direct (LCD) at Manningham Health Centre

We have sent you this letter because you see a doctor at one of these surgeries. Please read it carefully because we want to ask what you think about some important changes to the surgeries.

Why we are writing to you:

We are writing to you because all three surgeries have contracts that are going to end on 30 November 2017.

We are thinking about how best to provide family doctor (GP) services in the Manningham area and we want to hear what you think.

What happens when a contract is ending?

When a contract for a surgery is ending, the NHS advertises for businesses to come forward that are interested in running the practice. This is called a “competitive tender” process and we must do this by law. It is open to anyone who could provide family doctor services at the surgery.

Who can bid for new contract(s)?

Doctors’ surgeries are not run by the NHS. They are businesses that have contracts with the NHS to provide services for local people. Often the businesses belong to a group of doctors, but sometimes they belong to other types of organisations, such as charities or private companies. There are rules about who can run a GP practice.

What things might affect the bidding for new contracts?

We know that surgeries with only a small number of patients are not as attractive to bidders as they once were. They are usually not financially viable, which means they don’t make a profit. This means that they find it hard to recruit permanent staff (such as doctors and nurses).

This is not just a problem in Bradford, but right across the country. Sometimes it leads to the closure of the surgery, which is something that we would like to avoid happening in the Manningham area. A contract must be viable in the long-term to make it attractive to new bidders.

Who makes the decision about new contract holders?

Bradford City Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) will make the decision about new contracts, on behalf of NHS England. It will decide who gets the contracts and how many contracts there are.

How many contract holders will there be?

We don't know yet. There might be one, two or three contract holders, depending on how many businesses are interested in applying, and how well they can provide high quality care and services to patients.

Will all three surgeries continue to be used?

That depends on how the new contract holder(s) want to provide services to patients. It could be that services are run from one, two or all three of the existing surgeries.

We would like to know your views about where best to provide the services, so we can take them into account when we make a decision.

Are you planning to close something?

We understand local people want medical services near to their homes. We don't want to remove any services from the Manningham area but we might need to change the places where they are provided.

Have you made any commitments about particular surgeries?



Earlier this year we said that Manningham Health Centre is likely to be one of the buildings that continues to be used.

We would like to hear your views about whether this is still the right choice to make.

What can local people influence?

These are the things we would like your views about:

- What improvements do you think need to be made to family doctor (GP) services in the Manningham area?
- Are there any medical services that you would like to be provided in the Manningham area that aren't available at the moment?
- Where do you think is the best place (or places) to provide family doctor (GP) services in the Manningham area?
- Do you think that Manningham Health Centre is a good place for you to see your doctor?

What can't local people influence?

Local people cannot influence the CCG's decision about who gets the contracts or how many contracts there are to provide family doctor (GP) services in the Manningham area.

What happens next?

We are not making any changes until 1 December 2017. You will still be able to see your doctor and any other staff at your surgery as usual. If we decide to make any changes in the future we will write to you and tell you about them. We will also give you advice about what to do next.

Come and talk to us about the changes

Over the next three months we will be talking to local people. Please fill in the form sent with this letter. The address for sending it back to us is at the end of the form.

Or you could come and talk to us about the changes we are going to make. We are running some drop-in sessions you might like to come to.

Wednesday 15th March 2017 **5.00pm until 6.30pm** at
Carlisle Business Centre,
60 Carlisle Road,
Bradford, BD8 8BD

Thursday 16th March 2017 **10.30am until 12 noon** and
Tuesday 21st March 2017 **2.00pm until 3.30pm** at
Picton at Sai,
Westbourne Green Community Health Centre,
50 Heaton Road,
Bradford, BD8 8RA

Friday 24th March 2017 **9.30am until 11.00am** and
Thursday 29th March 2017 **3.00pm until 4.30pm** at
Picton at Whetley Medical Centre,
2 Saplin Street,
Bradford, BD8 9DW

You don't need to make an appointment – just drop in.

Many thanks for your help.